

Lewis Tappan, June 24, 1844.

New York, June 24, 1844.

Dear Brother Phelps,

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[At the last meeting of the Ex. Com. of the Union Miss. Soc. they instructed me to write to you again with reference to yr becoming Sec. of the Soc.] I waited awhile, thinking you might be here on yr return fr Rochester. But you do not come - time is ebbing away - it is time we had out another no. of the paper - and we have no editor & no permanent arrangement. [The Com. consider you well qualified for the office of Sec. of the A. & F. Anti-S. Soc. - eminently so - and as several of them belong to the Ex. Com. of that Soc. they feel anxious that you should fill both offices, really if not ostensibly. It w^d. be best, probably, for us to obtain a Sec. for the Miss. Soc. & an avowed editor, and to have the same person be edit the Reporter for the Ex. Com. & be Cor. Sec. of the Soc., or vice versa. We all think you exceedingly well qualified to edit the Miss. Paper also if your heart is in the work.] No one can edit a paper or advance the interests of a Soc. unless he enters into the work com amore. If we can not obtain you our eyes turn to Rev Reuben Tinker (I wish he had a better name) for editor of the Miss. Paper. He is not au fait to the anti-Slavery cause so as to be able to edit the Reporter. In this case the Reporter must continue to lie dormant, for we can not pay two editors, and it does not seem best to resume the Reporter as suggested by you. Both papers might do great execution if ably edited by one residing here & devoting himself to the work.

You hesitate I. because you do not like to lay down the pastoral office. But has God fitted you for that office so well as he has for that of an editor & Sec^y? Many think not. Doubtless the members of yr little Chh. are gratified & instructed by yr preaching, but is not that a small field compared with that of an

[editor who can preach (write) for the edification of thousands in
this country & in Europe. What would they think of us in England? They
read the Amer. Anti-Sl. papers & find their chief contents discussions of local
matters, while the great themes - those that interest abolitionists everywhere -
are slightly touched. We ought to have a Reporter that will be a
coadjutor to the British Reporter, & not only stand side by side to that
excellent paper, but lead it on. We ought to maintain an active
correspondence with leading abolitionists throughout the world. And
now there is room for an efficient Anti-Sl. Com. in this city. The
Garrisonians have virtually abandoned the ground. We ought
also to have a paper that will aim to promote anti-Sl. measures
not only, but endeavour to the disowning of the great Societies from
pro-Sl. influence.] See what has been done in the Methodist Chh.
The same might be effected in other associations & societies. I
have not time to enlarge upon these topics. You will not fail
to carry out in your mind the probable results of such an under-
taking. [With an able editor there, devoting his whole time to the
work, we might bring up a healthy vigorous metropolitan influence,
& act upon the intelligent mind of the country. Garrison & his
confessors have made the cause so offensive that something effectual
should be done to redeem it from odium & accelerate its movement.]

In addition to your week day labors you can preach
on the Sabbath if you please. A Hall can be hired in Brooklyn,
centrally situated, & a good influence might be exerted. If you
chose you might have a small congregation I doubt not &
a flourishing S-School. I will cooperate with you in Sunday
efforts to do good should you come here.

Now, Mr Phelps, I need say no more. Will you
come? Shall we have an interview? Will you see the Com.?

Had we an efficient Sec. of the Miss. Soc. the interests of the
M. S. mission could be greatly promoted & we could know what
is doing, & needed in Canada. If the Constⁿ needs amendment
it could be amended I presume.

The ideas thrown out by you in your late letter were
deemed valuable by the Com.

Dr. Lefew w^d be glad to have you enlisted. He has
found you did not fully coincide with the Ex-Com. but is sanguine
that the terror of the Miss. Boards, or their neglect of duty
will bring you up to his standard ere long.

Try to bring your mind to some definite conclusion,
for life is short, the opportunity is passing away, the work to
be done is momentous.

I feel ashamed to think how poorly we are answering
the expectations of English abolitionists. Better almost disband
than go on so sluggishly & inefficiently.

Very truly yours

Lewis Tappan



Rev. A. A. Phelps

Boston

Mr. Dyer

